

Cybervillians beware; Rome supplies information to law enforcement agencies

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — McGruff The Crime Dog may soon need a password.

In an effort to assist police around the nation in their fight against criminals lurking in the electronic shadows of cyberspace, the National Institute of Justice announced recently that its first National Law Enforcement Cyberscience Laboratory will be established at the former Griffiss AFB.

The laboratory, part of a \$6 million program that will develop Rome and four other Computer Forensics Centers across the country, is being established at NIJ's National Law Enforcement Corrections & Technology Center - Northeast Region (NLECTC-NE).

The center has a unique partnership with the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate to help develop new products and technologies that offer dual use for both military and civilian law enforcement agencies. It was established in 1994 and co-located with the then Rome Laboratory.

The National Institute of Justice, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, is the research agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. It is authorized to support research, evaluation, and demonstration programs; the development of technology; and the dissemination of information to both national and international law enforcement communities.

The new cyberscience laboratory will focus on industry and academia collaboration to address technical issues of cybercrime. It will host training for law enforcement personnel and distribute cybercrime technology and software tools to state and local agencies.

Collaborative research and development efforts will include the both the AFRL Information Directorate's Cyber Forensics Science & Technology Center and the Computer Forensics Research and Development Center of Utica College.

The Information Directorate currently teams with NLECTC-NE for research and development efforts into technologies that address command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence.

It draws on the expertise of Air Force scientists and engineers in its development of technologies that can be used to detect concealed weapons on people, an effort that is expected to yield a stationary device for use in buildings and handheld devices for patrol officers. Other areas of mutual interest include research and development of technologies for "through-the-wall" sensors, audio and image processing, timeline analysis and secure communications. @